

1609/4602

MINUTES
OF A
GENERAL CONFERENCE
OF THE
MEMBERS
OF THE
NEW CHURCH,

Signified by the
NEW JERUSALEM

IN THE
REVELATION,

Held in the
NEW JERUSALEM TEMPLE,
BIRMINGHAM,

April 1 and 2, 1793-37.

BIRMINGHAM,
PRINTED BY J. BELCHER.



1600/H602

MINUTES
OF A
GENERAL CONFERENCE, &c.

Monday, April 1, 1793-37.

DELEGATES for a general
having met this day, agree
last adjournment, Mr. *Samuel Hands*.
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Mr. *Thomas Wright*, Wirksworth;
 Mr. *R. B. Cooper*, Birmingham;
 Mr. *Anthony Hunt*, Bristol;
 Mr. *John Bellamy*, London.



The minutes of the last conference being next
 read, a motion therein by Mr. *Cooper*, respecting the
 of admission to conference, and of giving votes
 (12 last minutes) was confirmed.

Several letters were then read from the different
 and societies, purporting little more than
 wish that the present conference might
 Birmingham.

then moved, that example the 10th,
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Monday, Four o'Clock.

Met agreeable to adjournment, and opened the meeting with the Lord's prayer.

The committee now brought up their propositions, as follows:—

PRO. I. That as the human body consists of many members, which, for the preservation of the whole, must act in unison, so will the New Church consist of numerous societies, which, for their mutual strength, and support of the common cause, must conform to certain *general rules* of fraternal union and ecclesiastical order.

PRO. II. That of consequence, no ordinance, regulation, &c. in the church *immediately* affecting any particular society, and *mediately* the societies in general, can be duly sanctioned without the concurrence and approbation of at least a *majority* of the societies.

— PRO. III. That by parity of reason, if any particular society shall refuse to solicit, or fail to obtain, such sanction, the adoption of any ordinance, regulation, &c. by that society, will tacitly lay them under a general censure.

PRO. IV. That in order to obtain this general sanction in due order, each society shall have a president annually chosen, who shall be invested with authority to call a meeting of the society to which he belongs, upon any proposition for a new ordinance, regulation, &c. from any other society; and also to report the result of their deliberations, to the society from which the proposition originated.

PRO. V. That after the president of any particular society, shall have taken the sense of all the societies, upon any proposition as above, he shall
again

again send circular letters to the presidents of all the societies, acquainting them with the *particular determination*; and recommend it to them all, to abide by the *general decision*; and request of each that such circular letter be inserted in the records of the society.

PRO. VI. That no person can be admitted as a regular member of the church, but through the gate of baptism; but if they have been once baptized, RE-BAPTISM shall be made a matter of conscience, and left to the discretion of every person.

PRO. VII. Nor can any person be considered as a full member of any particular society, qualified to interfere in its interior concerns, until he hath communicated with that society in receiving the Holy Supper.

PRO. VIII. That each society choose its own minister; but that it previously acquaint the different societies with their reasons for such choice, in regard to their intended minister's *moral character—cordial reception of the doctrines of the New Church—and his abilities as a teacher*; and that such approbation, when obtained, be considered as a sufficient qualification for his ordination.

PRO. IX. That no minister shall be removed from his office, without sufficient reasons are assigned, either in regard to his moral character, his promulgation of the doctrines of the New Church, or his abilities as a teacher; nor shall any minister remove himself from the administration of his office, without communicating his reasons as above to all the other societies; and that in either case, the different societies be requested to signify their approbation or disapprobation of the measure.

PRO. X. That the societies, through the medium of their representatives, be requested to adopt one
general

general form of worship, of ordination of ministers, and consecration of temples.

PRO. XI. That each society support its own minister, in such a manner as shall be agreeable to the respective parties.

PRO. XII. That these propositions be recommended to the consideration of the societies in general, and that they be left open to be confirmed at the next annual conference.

Concluded with the Lord's prayer, and adjourned till the next morning ten o'clock.

Tuesday, April 2.

Met agreeable to adjournment, and opened the meeting with the Lord's prayer.

When the minutes were again read and passed unanimously—

Moved, and duly seconded, that copies of these minutes be sent to each society soon as printed, and that each society be requested to appoint a president (according to proposal the fourth) immediately, who shall send his direction to the general president (Mr. S. Mann) that he may inform the church at large, who the president is of each particular society.

The conference having finished such business as have been brought before them, now transfer the business of the church at large to the president and committee of the present conference; and empower them to call a conference, to meet next Easter Monday at Manchester.

For the information of those who may be inclined to leave any legacies for the benefit of the New Church, otherwise called the New Jerusalem, it is thought

thought proper to give the form of a clause for this purpose. viz.

ITEM, I give and bequeath unto A. B. and C. D. the sum of to be raised and paid out of my personal estate and effects, which by law I may, or can, charge with the payment thereof, upon trust, and to the intent that they, or either of them, do pay the same to the president of the conference for the year, (or for the time being) or to the particular president of any one society united in the general conference; which said sum I desire may be applied towards carrying on the benevolent designs of the members of the said New Church, called the New Jerusalem.

N. B. Giving lands, or money, or stock, by will, to be laid out in the purchase of any real estate, for the above purpose, will be void by the mortmain laws; but money or stock may be given by will, without being directed to be so laid out.

Moved by Mr. Coward, and agreed to, that 500 copies of these minutes be printed, under the direction of the Rev. J. Proud, and distributed by him as above.

The conference concluded with the Lord's prayer, and was adjourned to Easter Monday next, April, 1794-38, to be held at Manchester.

Mr. SAMUEL MANN, President.

Rev. CHARLES LEADBEATER, Secretary,
&c. &c.



F I N I S.

